

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 has been amended recently in which a new Section 62A has been added for constituting of a Child Protection Unit for every State as well as for every district. Section 62A provides that such Child Protection Units shall be constituted by appointing officers and other employees to take up matters relating to children in need of care and protection and juveniles in conflict with law with a view to ensure the implementation of this Act including the establishment and maintenance of homes, notification of competent authorities in relation to these children and their rehabilitation and co-ordination with various official and non-official agencies concerned. No such women protection unit has been provided for in the said Act.

(d) The Working Group on the Development of Children for the Eleventh Plan has recommended a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Integrated Child Protection Scheme' which will, *inter alia*, have a component for setting up of such child protection units. The annual budget for such schemes based upon their disaggregated requirements is being worked out in consultation with Planning Commission.

Malnutrition of women and children

2098. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether over half of women and children of the country are suffering from severe malnutrition and chronic undernourishment;

(b) whether there is any proposal to distribute foodgrains free of cost to women and children suffering from malnutrition; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to wipe out malnutrition and undernourishment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The National level data on prevalence of malnutrition among women and children is compiled through the National Family Health Surveys (NFHS). The survey is conducted under the stewardship of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. As per the data available from NFHS-2 (1998-99), 47% of children

below 3 years of age were undernourished, out of which 18% were severely undernourished (weight for age method). 36% of women between 15 to 49 years had a body mass index (BMI) below 18.5 indicating a high prevalence of nutritional deficiencies. The work relating to NFHS-3 (2005-06) is underway at present. While provisional data in respect of 19 States has been released, the same in respect of remaining States is likely to be available by the end of the year. Final report of NFHS-3 would be available in due course.

(b) While there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present, 6Kg of free foodgrains are provided every month to undernourished adolescent girls in 51 backward districts, on a pilot project basis, under the Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG.).

(c) The problem of malnutrition is multi-sectoral and inter-generational in nature and needs to be tackled through coordinated interventions in area of food security, safe drinking water, sanitation, nutrition, health & family welfare, poverty alleviation etc. The Government is already seized of the problem and a number of Schemes/Programmes are being implemented through various Ministries/Departments which have, direct or indirect, bearing on nutritional status of women and children. Some of these Schemes/Programmes are as under:

- (i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme;
- (ii) National Nutritional Anaemia Control Programme, (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);
- (iii) National Prophylaxis Programme against Blindness due to Vitamin A (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);
- (iv) National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);
- (v) Reproductive and Child Health Programme (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);
- (vi) Janani Suraksha Yojana (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);
- (vii) National Rural Health Mission (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);

- (viii) Accelerated Rural Water Supply/Swajaldhara Programme & Total Sanitation Campaign (Ministry of Rural Development);
- (ix) Poverty Alleviation Programme (Ministry of Rural Development);
- (x) Targeted Public Distribution System (Department of Food & Consumer Affairs);
- (xi) Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG) (Ministry of Women & Child Development).

Ministry of Women and Child Development administers the ICDS Scheme, which aims at holistic development of children below the age of 6 years and pregnant & lactating mothers. The steps taken in the recent past to increase the effectiveness of the delivery of services under the Scheme include:

- > Expansion of the Scheme
- > Doubling of financial norms for supplementary nutrition
- > Sharing of 50% cost of supplementary nutrition with the States
- > Constant emphasis on States to:
 - Ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per the schematic norms
 - Ensure effective convergence of health nutrition, education and safe drinking water services under various programmes.

National Creche Fund Scheme

2099. DR.GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the genesis, aim and objectives of the National Creche Fund Scheme, 1994;
- (b) total amount provided to Rajasthan under this Scheme, till date, year-wise and benefits accrued thereof;
- (c) the places in Rajasthan where the above-mentioned scheme has been implemented;